## PROOF FOUND THAT JOAN OF ARC COULD WRITE

## Collateral Descendant of Maid of Orleans Produces Documents to Disprove the Charge That Martyr Was Illiterate

therary sensation of the present | The letter, [written on March 22, was moment in foreign circles is the story by only sent on from Blois one month the Comtesse d'Oilliamson of the discovery later when, Joan's mission being at last in the library of the Comte de Maleyssie acknowledged, she was entitled to see of several autograph letters of Joan of Arc, that it should be delivered to the Engthe martyr maid of Orleans. For centuries lish. It is Cousinot, author of the soldier of medit val France could neither these details." read nor write. The Comtesse d'Oilliamson "All this seems to prove that Joan did seems to have made it very clear that this not know how to write and not even how

has been the universal belief that the girl 'Pucelle's Chronicle,' who has given us



VICTORIOUS RETURN OF JOAN OF ARC TO ORLEANS FROM THE PAINTING BY SHERRER.

rival at Chinon learn anything but the

use of waspons and the customs of the

court. But it is most likely that she

learned to sign her name, and perhaps to read and to write, during the winter

of 143), when in the midst of the out-

break of intrigues which condemned her

to a painful inaction; for nineteen months

but on condition that I myself write to

explain this action which is brought

this a very poor proof of Joan's knowl-

patient," said the Count. "Already on

February 24 she had asked to have

the points on which she did not then

answer given to her in writing. On the

received it on August 22, 1429, as

"But Joan declared that if she some

was leaving Compiègne. Joan re-

"I must ask you to be a little more

those for whom this eventful period of during the months that followed her ar-French history has ap ecial charm.

JOAN OF ARC'S LETTERS

COMTESSE D'OILLIAMSON

My friend the Comte de Maleyssie of the Château of the Reuvrière, who is a later, when she was asked and summoned collateral descendant of Joan of Arc. to answer which sign of her mission she had often spoken to me of certain letters had shown to King Charles VII. and if in his family archives purporting to be by the very hand of the Warrior Maid.

Having some doubts as to their authenCharles of Bourbon, La Trémoille, and

ticity. I made up my mind to accept the La Hire, she answered shrewdly: I will Count's kind invitation and to run down consent to have a messanger sent to them. to his country seat in the Department de l'Orne. Thus it was that I found myself one morning in his library ready to against me; otherwise it is useless. discuss the subject with him and look discuss the subject with him and look through the documents which he had tary would write \* \* \* I consider spread on the table for my benefit. Everything there is to say seems to have edge." een already said about Joan of Arc; Anatole France on the one hand, Gabriel Hanotaux on the other, have written her life, and their views differ greatly, but the question of the letters and their signature has not been cleared up until now. first of March the assessor insisted upon has been impossible to ascertain her telling him if she had received a whether Joan could sign her name or letter from the Count of Armagnac asking not, and the fact that she could do so her which Pope he was to obey. She had would throw a new light upon the last

My visit was therefore a most interest-ing one and I arrived armed with strong wrote to me a letter on that subject; in arguments against Joan's knowledge of my answer I told him that I would let him handwriting. I eagerly looked through know my opinion from Paris or from any the papers and manuscripts which had other place where I could find a spare been placed before my eyes and I was moment to do so. I was about to mount soon convinced that Joan's father was no my horse when I gave this answer.' Then yulgar peasant, but a notability in his the Count's letter was read to her las well village. The historian Luce states that as her reply, and she 'was asked whether he figured in the first rank among the her answer to the Count was that con leading men of Domremy. He is men-tioned in a charter dated October ... Joan declared that these were extracts 1122, and is qualified as the Senior of his from her letter, some parts having been village." In those days the Senior omitted. She had further to explain was in charge of the taxes, such as they why she began some of her missives were at that time, and was supposed to with the words 'Jhesus-Maria' or with a supply his fellow citizens with bread, cross, but she said that it was not an wine and other goods. It was also his absolute habit of hers to do so. to verify the weights and meas- times start with a cross, and then it means ures. He possessed forty acres of land, that my orders are not to be executed. eight of which were meadows and eight It seems indeed to have been a custom of woods, these including the famous "Bois those days to begin a note with the Chesnu." His income was 200£. A man words 'Jhesus-Maria.' Jacques de Bourin that position, who was often chosen bon's letter, which has been found lately as attorney by his fellow citizens, evi-dently possessed a certain amount of account of Charles VII.'s coronation, education. These facts were laid before begins with these words. me by the Count.

"Do you mean to infer from that," I times used a cross to disown the contents interrupted, "that he taught his chil- of her letters she never signed with a dren to read and write at a time when cross. I suppose you grasp the importhe most noble lords themselves scarcely tance of this fact?" continued the Count. knew how to sign their names?"

"No: that is impossible to prove. I stratagem when cross-examined at Rouen will even go further and say that I do and requested to sign her statement not believe Joan could sign her name It explains the smile on her lips, that when she started on her mission. When smile that every witness refers to. The during three long weeks she was ques- whole scene was an infamous farce got tioned and examined at Poitiers as to the up by Bishop Cauchon, the Cardinal of sincerity of her mission she often gave Winchester, and all the others to mislead certain signs of irritation, and one day, contemporaries as well as posterity. speaking to Peter of Versailles, she pronounced the sentence which you quoted yesterday: 'I believe,' she said, that you have come to question me; I of the retractation so as to make her disdo not know an A from a B, but I have own her divine mission and the help and been sent by the King of Heaven to support which she had brought to King treak up the siege of Orleans and take the Charles VII. The deception culminated King to be crowned at Reims.' When in Laurent Calot approaching her and

addressing John Etault: 'Have you got asking her to sign a paper which he held some paper and ink?' she added. 'Just in his hand. Joan took it and ironically Write what I am going to dictate to you.' traced an O upon it. Then when she was King of England, and you, Duke of Bed-summoned to sign the famous 'Cedule' who pretend to be Regent of the and declared that it must first be exam-French kingdom; you. William of La ined by the clerk to know if she was to Count of Suffolk; John, Sire of sign it or not Master Guillaume Erard Talbor, and you. Thomas. Sire of Escale, said to her, Sign at once and you shall of handling and travel they have stood where perfectly to fit the instrument in all its varying dimensions, including the beaven to return to England • • • • Wery likely these are the only aeroplane the big bell, a pocket into which the big

was not the truth. The publication of the Comtesse's article by THE SUNDAY SUN "I am quite of your opinion so far," should interest not only litterateurs but all replied the Count; "neither could she

Cauchon. "When on May 28 Cauchon reminded her that she had promised not to wear men's clothes under the pretext that she had signed the 'cedule'she said. 'I never meant to swear not to wear them again. "Does not this prove that she did not

> It was evident that the Count had studied every detail of the action brought against Joan, and I felt inclined to adopt his view and to agree that it would be a lack of common sense not to admit that Joan knew at least how to sign her name. Yet I had not seen the letters, those letters which I had come from England in order to see. Did my host guess my wish? Possibly, for he suddenly opened the drawer of the table and with

tended retractation?"

She signed with a smile on her lips. The

Bishop of Noyon, Jean de Mailly, de-

clares that the whole scene was a farce-

'Quod non erat nisi truffa,' says the Latin

text, agreeing with the English testi-mony. So strongly was this felt to be the

case that an English doctor who wit-

nessed the facts began to abuse Bishop

eyes three letters. The first, addressed to the citizens of Reims and written on Friday, August 5, 1429, near a lodge out in the country on the Paris road, ran thus:

the greatest reverence spread before my

"My dear and good friends, ye good the King has made a 'truce of fifteen of that time. And yet do not be sur- news would be known to others."

know if there are any traitors who wish to vex you and I shall deliver you from them, and let me hear from you. I commend you to God's keeping. Written on this Friday, the fifth day of August near a lodge out in the country on the

Paris road. "But the letter is not signed," I exclaimed. much disappointed.

"No, it is not signed," replied the Count yet as you will see it is in the same handconsider herself bound on account of a writing as this other one," and he pointed out to me another letter which he carefully unfolded, and there I saw, traced in full with a firm hand, Joan's signature.

This letter was dated from Sully, March

6, 1430. "Dear and beloved friends," it said, whom I wish so much to see, I, Jo an the Pucelle, have received your letters, mentioning your fear of being besieged. I wish to assure you that this will not take place if I can soon meet the enemies. And if it so happens that I do not meet them and that they turn against you, close the town doors, I shall soon be with you, and if they are there I shall and loyal Frenchmen: Citizens of the soon make them clap on their spurs city of Reims. Joan the Pucelle gives you [chausser leurs éperons] in such haste her news and requests you to have no that they will not know how to seize them doubts over the good quarrel which she quick enough, this will happen very sustains for the royal blood, and I prom- quickly indeed. I do not write anything ise to you and assure you that I shall not more at present, I only wish you to be fail you as long as I live. It is true that good and loyal. May God guard you.

"Written from Sully. March 16. days with the Duke of Burgundy, the "I would give other news that would give condition being that the Duke shall sur- you much joy, but I fear that my letters render the city of Paris to him at the end should be stolen on the way and that the

conditione et non alias hoc fecit legendo | I shall take good care to keep the King's | "I found with the letters," added the post aliam [alium?] quamdam parvam army ready by the end of the fortnight | Count, "an insignificant sheet of paper, if they do not make peace. For this reason, or at least it had always been thought Strongly Denied That Girl Soldier's my dear and perfect friends, I insist upon so, and when I read it I discovered that you not worrying as long as I live, but it was in reality a document of the highest l request you to make good watch and importance. It was dated 1830 and keep the King's good city; and let me written by Fabri de Peirese, counsellor at the Parlement of Aix (who was a great collector), to Charles du Lys. At the end. after speaking of the tapestry and the medal which had belonged to Joan, he adds this postscript:

that it is false, he is very satisfied with captain in the French Guards. Anne had you. And he has declared that you are piously preserved in her manor of Mons "'You must give me a copy of the Pucelle's letters if you do not wish me to in favor with him and if you have to in Poitou the souvenirs of her aunt fight and are besieged he will come to Joan. Later on, in 1789, the Marquis de come and fetch them myself.' succor you; he knows that you have much to suffer from the bad behavior of your in the Château du Vigean. This domain

"In 1525 an inventory states that these etters were at Reims. What had hapened in the space of these five years?

"This Charles du Lys, Attorney-General at the Parlement and 'Avocat-General à la cour des Aydes de Paris,' wat passionately interested in everything that concerned his great-aunt Joan. He managed to collect a few of her relics, very few indeed, for alas! most of the things that had belonged to her had been burned, and even the ashes of the funeral wood pile had been thrown into the Seine from the bridge of Rouen, as well as the heart of the heroine. It was owing to his high position that Charles du Lys obtained from the archives of Reims these three precious letters."

Still wishing to clear my mind of the slightest doubt I said: "Pray tell me now how these letters came into your possession?"

"Let me first show you the third letter and I will afterward satisfy your curi-

The third letter, also signed "Jehanne," ran thus:

"To my very dear and good friends [clergymen, Aldermen, burgesses and inhabitants and Masters of the good town of Reims]: Dear and good friends may I let you know that I have received your letters in which you tell me that the King has been informed that many sad things have taken place in the city of Reims. It ise that he ha trus been told



Hand Was Held When She Signed

Letters Now Made Public

for First Time

enemies these traitors of Bourguighons; had very important feudal rights, the cer-he will release you speedily if it be God's tificates of which were burned in the

will. I therefore request you, my very public square as soon as the Revolution

dear friends, to keep good guard over the broke out.

JOAN OF ARC - THE VISION. FROM THE PAINTING BY D. MAILLART.

Duke will send to our King three thousand warriors with two months' pay.
"Written from Sully, March 28."

Same

Parine

discussed in particular by Anatole France, who has tried to prove that Joan's hand seal of it and stamped all her letters with is the facsimile of the Riom letter, November 9, 1429, and here is the facsimile of the letter dated March 16, 1430. You you to do so," answered the Count. may easily see the difference. The 'J' has neither just the same shape nor the same direction. The first is written in a sort of inexperienced hand; the 'n' is scribbled; the second, written four months later, the letters have the same shape and char-

"It was in 1855 that Valet de Viriville discovered in the Peirse MS. at Carpenwhere they are; do not expose them to and had to dictate his verse "History of the light; let them stay with Charles du the House of Scott" to schoolboys and

"But how came you to possess them?"

asked eagerly. will give you satisfaction. I suppose the event, or the evidence of the five eyyou understand why I insisted on your witnessess taken twenty-five years later seeing the proofs before hearing their at the trial of rehabilitation. The offihistory, which we only know by tradi- cial account says that a long abjuration? Charles du Lys, as I told you, tion was read aloud to her in Frence obtained these letters from the town of and that she repeated the words Reims. (King Charles VII. gave to after the reader and signed the paper. Joan's brother the name of Du Lys, and the Then follow "Jehanne" and a cross, fleurs delys of France; also the right to all whether or not the cross be her mark. his descendants to bear as their creat a After "Jehanne" written by the clerk figure of the Pucelle, white robed, carrying who wrote out the abjuration, some 300 in her right hand a golden crown sup- words. ported by a sword and in her left the white | Five witnesses twenty-five year later banner with the golden lilies and the say that the document which she repeated head of an angel presenting a lily to God carried by the Virgin, His mother, and the words 'La Pucelle.') He also collected a sword, a banner and a tapestry of his great-aunt Joan. About the year 1595 he married Catherine de Cailly, who belonged to an Orléanese family and whose ancestor had had the honor of receiving Joan in his manor. His daughter, Fran-coise, married Louis de Quatrehommes; Marie de Quatrehommes married Achille Joan to acquiesce in a short form of abju-Joan in his manor. His daughter, Fran-

scarcely known even in France. There are two other letters from Joan. The famous letter written from Moulins to the inhabitants of Riom on November, 9, 1429, and signed 'Jehanne.'

"The signature of this letter has been it. It is an absurd suggestion. Here

won't make you give it back if you'll advertise it."

But how can I do that?"

Bad it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes.

The book was accepted, but a few days where perfectly to fit the instrument in all its varying dimensions, including the big bell, a pocket into which the big on terms quoted."

Won't make you give it back if you'll advertise it."

But how can I do that?"

Bad it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes.

The book was accepted, but a few days where perfectly to fit the author received this telegram: in all its varying dimensions, including the big bell, a pocket into which the big on terms quoted."

Won't make you give it back if you'll advertise it."

But how can I do that?"

Bared it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes.

The book was accepted, but a few days where perfectly to fit the author received this telegram: in all its varying dimensions, including the book herewith. Don't want it on terms quoted."

Wan't make you give it back if you'll advertise it."

But how can I do that?"

Bared it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes.

"Read it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes."

"Read it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes."

"Read it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes."

"Read it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes."

"Read it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes."

"Read it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily every few minutes."

"Read it on the train where people can see you, and laugh heartily e

accused of having encouraged the plot of Luxembourg. Everything that had belonged to Joan disappeared, sword, banner, tapestry, everything except these

"The Marquis, my great-grandfather, had four sons, who all emigrated. His eldest daughter, the Marchioness de Goulaine, was the only one to remain in France. She had the will and courage was convinced, and I owned it frankly. of a man. She fled from Brittany to Poitou The Count smiled. "I expected no less from your common sense," he said. "If owing to her that Joan of Arc's letters you wish to publish in England these were saved. Finding it too great a risk letters which you have seen with your to carry them away with her, she confided them to the earth, digging a deep hole in which she hid them. It was my own father, who was born in 1804 and died in 1872, who gave me these particulars He had them from his aunt, the Marchioness de Goulaine herself, and her brother, Gen. de Maleyssie. The letters and archives of Charles du Lys are the property of my nephew, the Marquis de Maleissye, and are kept near Chartres at the Château d'Houville. They have been confided to me because I wished to make a special study of them for the

benefit of the public." "How can I sufficiently thank you for this conversation and these proofs? having been held once for all they took a said I enthusiastically. "You will, I hope, allow me to publish every sentence of what you have told me in one of our magazines?" "Not only do I allow you, but I wish

"I must then write down a few notes of what you have told me," I said.

"Do not trouble to do that," replied my amiable host. "I have written a pam phlet on the subject of these letters. You is in a much firmer handwriting, but still will, I hope, accept a copy, and with the help it affords you will write your article.

NOTE.—The letters in the possession of the Count de Maleyssie are universally recognized as perfectly authentic. As had written on the family of the Pucelle. a stamp, but written by her own hand. My family being the only one now con- It is impossible, however, to be certain nected with Charles du Lys and the sole that she did nor write, in the Scottish possessor of these documents, I wrote formula, "with her hand at the pen"; that to M. de Viriville. Like yourself, he came is with her hand held and guided by some to see them, and I remember his exclaim- clerk. Again, she may have learned to ing: 'It is admirable, marvellous; these copy the letters of her name like Scott are really Joan of Arc's letters!' And he of Satchells, about 1680, who "can write added: Leave these letters carefully none except the letters of my name,"

others. As to Joan's abjuration, all depends asked eagerly.

"Well, now that you are convinced I cial version, which is contemporary with

> was very short, "no longer than a paters noster," and that she made a mark, a cross or a circle; one of these witnesses had the short document in his hand.

Such, briefly put, is the evidence. The whole scene was tumultuous, the English being furious that Joan was allowed to save her life by abjuring. Either the five



JOAN OF ARC - THE FINAL SCENE. FROM THE PAINTING BY GABRIEL MAX.

King's honor and on condition that they in the handwriting of Jean Rogier, ho King has been convinced to the condo not play false to the royal blood, but "échevin" of Reims in 1625.

prised if I do not enter it so soon; as to I gasped. Here was really one letter (and you know it no doubt) that some of tras the short tract which Charles du Lys to Joan's signature, it is not printed with those truces, they do not satisfy me, and bearing Joan's signature, and there was the citizens have formed a league so as I do not know if I shall keep them. Should also an inscription to this letter. The to betray their duty and admit the people I do so it will only be for the sake of the words "Jehanne la Pucelle" were traced of Burgundy into the town. But since

## BUILDING TRUNKS FOR FLYING MACHINES

pellers is 9 feet long.

These tremendous trunks are finished trunk is six and a half feet in length outside in the usual fashion, canvas Smailer trunks of the same style are made covered with metallic trimmings. They for cellos. are so strengthened and trussed as to Many brass instruments are carried they are likely to be subjected in use. Of brass instruments are also carried about course no baggageman that ever lived in trunks specially made for them. The trunks have been at least once to the type, but inside there is formed a padded Pacific coast and so far under the stress and plush lined deep pocket, shaped every-

Probably the biggest trunks ever built trunks ever built, but there are made to horn fits snugly and in which it rides are four which were made to order about order many trunks for many odd uses. safely. There may be brass instrument a year ago by a New York manufacturer. Theatrical trunks built to order are detrunks in which several horns of smaller and which were designed to carry aero- signed to stand wear, and they do. Be- sizes may be securely stowed. sides trunks for the theatrical profession There were two of these flying machines, generally, there are many special trunks special trunk. The xylophone when both monoplanes, and to carry them there made to contain apparatus used in special played rests on a table and the player

both monoplanes, and to carry them there were built four giant trunks; a trunk for each flying machine body, one trunk in which the four wings, each divided into two parts, were packed, and a fourth trunk in which were stowed four propellers.

Each of the body trunks is 36 feet long by about 45 inches square. The trunk for the wings is 25 feet long and 12 feet broad at one end and 9 feet broad at the other, while the trunk for the propellers is 9 feet long.

made to contain apparatus used in special acts by stage performers; and there are by stage performers; and there are by stage performers; and there are by suits him. He is likely to have a table with folding legs or with detachable legs, and if he travels he has a trunk into which the dismounted table and the instrument can be safely packed.

There are vaudeville players who play perhaps half a dozen instruments of widely diverse character and who may have a trunk built to contain them all. He violin player may have constructed in his travelling trunk a special compartment. A bass viol the shape of the instrument. A bass viol

enable them to stand the strains to which by hand in specially made holders, but could sling those trunks around, and in player of a big bass horn, for instance, fact the body trunks can't be got into an may have a trunk especially built for it. ordinary side door car and have to be This would be a big trunk in shape and transported in end door freight cars. The proportions of a conventional trunk

The xylophone player may have

Too Much. From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.
A local author, whose name we are loath to print, was called upon by a friend one day early this week.
"I am going on a long journey by train," he said, "and I know you have a dandy library, and I want something to read en route. What have you to lend me?"
"I hate to boast, but I have an awfully funny one. Here is my latest book. I won't make you give it back if you'll advertise it."